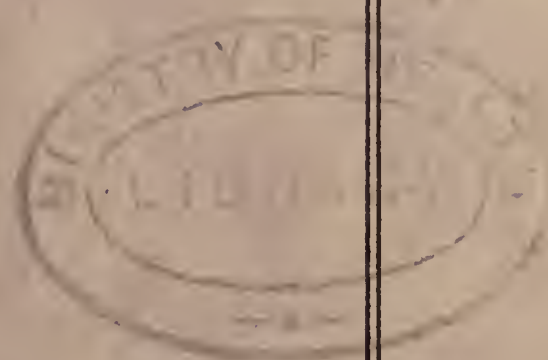


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**ALTRINCHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Annual Reports

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
Dr. R. REID DUNCAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,
CANAL BOATS, WORKSHOPS, etc.
JAMES E. CRICKMORE, A.R.S.I.**

For the year ending 31st December, 1925.

S. BUTLER, Printer, 105, George Street, Altrincham.

Annual Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Altrincham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you, my 5th Annual Report. It was intimated in paragraph 13 of Circular 540 of the 18th December, 1924, that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925 would be a Survey Report, and that in this Survey Report the Medical Officer of Health should be prepared to deal comprehensively with :—

- (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding 5 years in the improvement of the Public Health.
- (b) The extent and character of the changes made during the period in the public health services in the area, (*e.g.* Housing, water supply, sewerage, scavenging, or refuse disposal, food inspection or other services affecting the environment of the inhabitants, and Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes or other services devoted to the prevention or cure of disease in individuals).

The Medical Officer of Health is directed to supply information in regard to the matters specified in the Appendix to Circular 648 in so far as they concern his District, and as far as possible in the order there given.

The Urban District of Altrincham comprises 1330 acres. The population at the 1921 Census was given as 20,700. The population at the end of 1925 as estimated by natural increase was 21,233. The Registrar General puts the population at 20,990 as at the end of June, 1925. It is on this latter figure that the Vital Statistics are based. The actual population of the District must, however, in my opinion, be considerably more on account of the emmigration of new comers into certain of the recently erected houses.

Altrincham is situated in the northern part of Mid-Cheshire, 8 miles south of Manchester, and 3 miles south of the River Mersey, the nearest boundary between Cheshire and Lancashire. It is bounded by 3 Urban Districts and by a Rural District. The northern part of the District is flat, being traversed by the Bridgewater Canal at a height of 83 feet above sea level. The ground rises from the Canal towards the south-west boundary, reaching a height of 147 feet above sea level at the Town Hall, and 183 feet at the south-west boundary. The soil is sandy at the higher parts and is composed of sand overlying loam in the lower parts. The prevailing winds are from the south-westerly direction. The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 4,598. It was not possible to compute the number of families or separate occupiers in 1921.

The Rateable value of the District in 1925 was £143,118. In 1921 this value was £126,277. The Rateable value has therefore increased in 5 years by £16,841. In 1925, the sum represented by a penny rate was £530 General District Rate Assessment and £570 Poor Rate Assessment. In 1921 the corresponding figures were £470 and £495 respectively.

The population of the District is largely industrial and trading, but a fair proportion of the population is residential with business interests in Manchester. There are several large engineering works situated alongside the Bridgewater Canal and the railways, giving employment to a large number of skilled workmen. None of the works or any occupation carried on within the District can be said to have any detrimental influence on the Public Health. Altrincham is the centre of a populous area, and is the shopping centre of the area. Altrincham enjoys the advantages of a Public Library and Swimming Baths, both under the management of the Local Authority. The District is traversed by highways that carry an enormous traffic. There is an excellent service to Manchester by train and by tram, and a motor-bus service links Altrincham to the surrounding area.

Vital Statistics.

The number of Births registered in, and allocated to the District for the year 1925 is 345, Males 185, Females 160. Legitimate Births, 175 Males, and 156 Females. Illegitimate Births, 10 Males, and 4 Females.

The Birth Rate for 1925 is 16·4 per 1,000 of the population. Last year the Birth Rate was 15·6. The increase over the rate for 1924 is ·8 per 1,000 of the population. For England and Wales the Birth Rate per 1,000 of the total population in 1925 was 18·3.

For the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns 18·8.

For the 157 Smaller Towns (20,000—50,000) 18·3.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales has decreased ·5 per 1,000 of the population, while the Altrincham District Birth Rate, though still considerably less than that of the Country as a whole, has improved on 1924 by ·8 per 1,000 of its inhabitants.

The number of deaths registered in the District and corrected for outward and inward transfers is 240 : Males, 129 ; Females, 111. The Death Rate for 1925 is 11·4 per 1,000 of the population. That for 1924 was 12·2. For England and Wales the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population in 1925 was 12·2, the same figure as in 1924. For the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, 12·2, and for the 157 Smaller Towns, 11·2. The Death Rate for England and Wales has remained stationary, while the Altrincham District death rate has decreased from 12·2 in 1924 to 11·4 in 1925, a decrease of ·8 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age. 23 such deaths occurred, 13 Males and 10 Females, representing an Infantile Mortality Rate of 66·6 per 1,000 births. The infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 75. For the 105 County Boroughs and Great towns 79, and for the 157 smaller Towns 74.

In this respect the District can again be favourably compared with other communities and with the country as a whole. No death of an illegitimate infant under one year of age occurred, the mortality rate therefore, is nil per 1,000 Illegitimate Births. Two deaths occurred

from Diarrhoea in children under 2 years of age, 1 death occurred from Measles, 2 from Scarlet Fever, 3 from Whooping Cough, 2 from Diphtheria, 1 from Influenza, 13 from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System, 4 from other Tuberculous Disease, 23 from Cancer or Malignant disease, 1 from Diabetis, 20 from Cerebral Haemorrhage, 36 from Heart Disease, 13 from Arterio sclerosis, 29 from Bronchitis, 19 from Pneumonia, 2 from other respiratory diseases, 2 from ulcer of the stomach or duodenum, 1 from Appendicitis, 5 from Kidney Disease, 1 from Puerperal Sepsis, 2 from other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition 6 from congenital debility, malformation or premature birth, 4 from Suicide, 11 from other forms of violence, 36 from other defined diseases and 1 from an ill defined disease.

The Amount of Poor Law Relief.

I have no means of ascertaining the amount of Poor Law relief, unless the particulars are furnished by the Clerk to the Poor Law Guardians. A statement of these particulars has been asked for.

There have been no causes of special sickness or invalidity that have been note-worthy during the period under review, and no prejudicial effect in health from any condition of occupation. There are in the District, many cases of overcrowding in the houses, and the health of the occupants, especially that of the young children must suffer in consequence.

General Provision of Health Service in the Area.

1. Hospital provision for cases of Tuberculosis is in the hands of the Cheshire County Council. Cases from the District are sent to various Sanatoria throughout the country. By agreement with the County Council, cases of surgical Tuberculosis are treated in the Altrincham General Hospital.
2. There is no Maternity Hospital within the District. An agreement is in operation between the District Council and St, Mary's Hospital, Manchester, for the reception of cases from the District that cannot, on account of unsuitable surroundings, be properly cared for in the home.
3. There is no Childrens Hospital within the District. A ward at the General Hospital is set aside as a Childrens Ward.
4. A Hospital for the isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Erysipelas, and Encephalitis Lethargica is maintained by the District Council, and is situated within the District. It is wholly maintained by the District Council except that the Urban District of Bowdon pays a retaining fee of £30 per year for 3 beds, and £2 12s. 6d. per week per patient. Cases otherwise admitted from outside the District pay an inclusive fee of £3 3s. 0d. per week. The Hospital has accommodation for 26 Scarlet Fever cases (beds and cots), 12 Diphtheria, 10 Typhoid with 2 observation wards. The Isolation Hospital is situated in the Dunham Ward towards the outskirts of the District.
5. No Smallpox Hospital exists within the District. There is an agreement between the Local Authority and the City of Man-

chester for the reception into the Manchester Smallpox Hospital, of any cases of Smallpox occurring within the District.

6. Within the District of Altrincham is the Altrincham General Hospital, consisting of 80 beds, affording medical, surgical, x-ray, electrical and massage treatment. Connected with the Hospital is a Provident Dispensary. The Hospital is maintained by voluntary contributions.

There is within the District no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. The Church of England maintains a home for orphan Girls within the District.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Urban District Council provides an ambulance for the conveyance of infectious cases from the home to the Isolation Hospital ; also 2 ambulances kept at the Fire Station for the conveyance of non-infectious sick and accident cases to the Hospitals.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is maintained by the Urban District Council, being under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor, assisted by a staff of voluntary helpers, 3 of whom are appointed to serve on the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Council. The Centre is open on Wednesdays from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., when the babies are weighed and examined by the Nurse, the Medical Officer of Health attending for consultations on those cases referred to him by the Nurse, new babies on their first visit being always seen by the Medical Officer. During 1925, 557 cases were referred to the Medical Officer by the Nurse, Males, 357 ; Females, 200. The Centre is primarily for examination and consultation, but with the consent of the family medical attendant, minor operative procedures are carried out at the General Hospital by arrangement with the Board of Management. During 1925 the following operations were performed Phimosi, 15 ; Tonsils and Adenoids, 13 ; Excision of Umbilical Sore, 1 ; Abscess of Neck, 1 ; Naevus, 1.

Individual residents in the adjoining Local Authorities have taken advantage of the medical consultations at the Centre as follows :—Timperley 34, Hale 18, Bowdon 13, Dunham 5, Rostherne 4.

On Thursday afternoons a Sewing Class for Mothers is held, when instructional talks on Maternity and Baby Welfare are given by the Health Visitor.

I subjoin the Report of the Health Visitor.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.

I beg to submit my Report of the work from January 1st, 1925, to the year ending 31st December, 1925.

Number of live babies notified—Males, 173 ; Females, 156 ;	
Total, 329. Still-borns notified—Males, 4 ; Females, 2 ; Total, 6.	
Number of first visits to babies under one year	306
Total number of visits to babies under one year	3422
Total number of visits to children one year to five years.....	1015
Number of first visits to expectant mothers.....	68
Total number of visits to expectant mothers.....	204
Total visits, 4,641.	

School for Mothers.

Number of babies on the register under one year.....	357
Total number of babies weighed under one year.....	2330
Number of children one year to five years on the register.....	500
Total number of children weighed one year to five years.....	811

Total number weighed, 3,141.

Making an average of 60 per week.

Number of individual children weighed from outside districts were as follows :—Bowdon, 10 ; Timperley, 10 ; Hale, 12 ; Bucklow Hill, 1 ; Dunham Massey, 1 ; Rostherne, 1. Total, 35.

The number of attendances at the Centre were as follows :—Bowdon, 36 ; Hale, 104 ; Timperley, 56 ; Bucklow Hill, 4 ; Dunham Massey, 6 ; Rostherne, 3 ; Total, 209 The Centre was open 52 times during the year.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

The number attending this Clinic during the year were 58. Of this number 4 were removed to St. Mary's Hospital ; 3 babies were still-born ; 2 babies died during the first week of life. The remaining cases were normal.

Sewing Class.

This class was opened 43 times during the year, and was attended by 755 mothers, making an average of 17 per week.

Health talks were given at this class.

Rate-aided milk has been granted in 297 cases during the year.

Dried Milk has been granted at the Centre in 2 cases.

Tuberculosis.

During the year I have made enquiries with relation to 351 cases of Tuberculosis. This was due to a new Circular No. 549, issued by the Ministry of Health, whereby each Local Authority is required to furnish quarterly to the County Medical Officer of Health the number of cases in their register. It has, therefore, been necessary to go through the register from 1912 and find out by visiting these cases, how many, under the new regulations, should be kept on the register. The number reported at the year ending 31st December, 1925, were :—Pulmonary, 89 ; Non-Pulmonary, 54 ; Total, 143.

All sanitary defectects noted whilst visiting were reported to the Sanitary Inspector.

H. W. BARDSLEY,
Health Visitor.

An Ante-Natal Clinic was established at the end of 1924. It has been held monthly from 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The mothers are examined as to their general health, measurements are taken, urine examined, and advice as to diet. exercise, etc. is given.

A Day Nursery is situated within the District. It is maintained by weekly payments per child, by voluntary subscriptions and by a

Ministry of Health grant. It is under the supervision of a medical practitioner.

Dental and Ophthalmic School Clinics are occasionally held in the District, but these are under the jurisdiction of the Cheshire County Council.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is established at 12, Dunham Road. The District Tuberculosis Officer attends there three times a week for consultations. This is provided by the Cheshire County Council.

There are no Treatment Centres in the District for Venereal Diseases. It is found that there is no suitable accommodation for such a clinic at the local General Hospital, and sufferers are advised to attend the Centres at Manchester or elsewhere.

An Orthopaedic Clinic, for the after care of crippled children, has been established at the Altrincham General Hospital, and is held weekly on each Friday afternoon. The provision for this clinic is by voluntary subscription and is not alone confined to the Urban District of Altrincham.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—part time—holds Diploma of Public Health.

Sanitary Inspector—whole time—holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is an Associate of that body.

Health Visitor—whole time—holds the Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Contribution to the salaries of these officials is made by Exchequer grants through the Cheshire County Council.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) The District is served by a well organised and highly efficient Nursing Association, maintained chiefly by voluntary contributions, although a low nominal fee per visit is chargeable to the patient. The Local Authority, recognising the beneficent service of the Nursing Association, subscribe annually to its funds.
- (b) There is no arrangement in the District for the nursing of Infectious Disease in the Home, such as Measles, Whooping Cough, etc.

There are 8 practising midwives resident in the District. No midwife in the District is employed under subsidy by the Local Authority. Midwives in the District are under the jurisdiction of the County Authority.

Chemical Work.

Arrangements are in force whereby samples for analysis are submitted to the Analyst to the Cheshire County Council, such samples have been Milk, Water, and in one case Blanc Mange Powder. The Milk samples have invariably been found up to the standard. A sample of Well Water was examined chemically and bacteriologically, and was found in the opinion of the Analyst to be satisfactory.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts and Orders.

There are no local Acts of Parliament applying to Altrincham.

The Council have adopted the following Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, which are in Force in the District.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts II and III.

Adopted June 25th, 1891.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Part IV.

Adopted January, 1896.

Baths and Wash Houses Act, 1846 to 1882.

Adopted June 2nd, 1900.

Houses of the Working Classes Act, 1890. Part III.

Adopted February 2nd, 1904.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Adopted May 27th, 1907. (Section 94, 16th December, 1918).

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890. 2nd February, 1925.

Bye-laws relating to :—

Date of Adoption.

1. The Removal of Refuse and Prevention of nuisances generally October, 1896.
2. Markets June 9th, 1883.
(Revised 1912.)
3. Common Lodging Houses October 6th, 1876
4. Slaughterhouses February, 1905.
5. Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures June 7th, 1910.
6. Hackney Carriages December 6th, 1921.
7. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops August 1st, 1889.
8. New Streets and Buildings September 5th, 1916.
9. Houses Let in Lodgings August 2nd, 1921.
10. Parks and Pleasure Grounds Revised 1923.

Two prosecutions for breaches of the Public Health Act, for failure to abate nuisances, were made in 1922, and in 1925 a conviction was obtained against a person for keeping an unregistered common lodging house.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The water supply of the District is obtained on the constant system from the Manchester Corporation's reservoirs at Woodhead and Thirlmere. No shortage of water has occurred during the period under review, and only in one instance in the District was the water found to have a plumbo solvent action.

The water is of excellent quality for both household and commercial purposes, and is wholesome for human consumption. There are no stand pipes in the District.

Rivers and Streams.

The Timperley Brook, a small stream, bounds the District on its Eastern side. River pollution inspection is in the hands of the River Irwell Conservancy Committee, whose Inspectors pay frequent visits to the water courses within the District.

Drainage and Sewerage.

At the present time the arrangements for disposal of liquid waste, drainage and sewerage, are sufficient. For the main part the system is the dual one. The East side of the District is served by a separate system, with the object of relieving the sewers in storm times. There is ample accommodation at the Sewage Disposal Works for all the sewage.

Closet Accommodation.

This accommodation comprises fresh water closets, waste water closets, privies, and privies with moveable receptacles at some of the works in the District.

The conversion of privies into water closets has proceeded under the Public Health Act (Amendment) Act 1907.

Under this Act the Local Authority contributes one half the cost of converting privies into water closets. In 1921 the Local Authority obtained a loan for the conversion of 300 privies into water closets. The high cost per conversion at that time hindered the rapid progress of the work. During the present survey period 428 privies have been converted into water closets. It has been found that many of the passage sewers require reconstruction, and the work of relaying these sewers has to be done in conjunction with the conversion of privies. Under these circumstances it seems advisable to proceed with the conversions in small numbers, in preference to a scheme on a large scale. The work of conversions is therefore proceeding on these lines, although the Local Authority is fully alive to the urgency of the abolition of all privies within the District. Much of the property, where conversions are necessary is very old, and in some cases dilapidated, to such an extent that reconstruction is essential.

Skilled labour for such work on a large scale is scarce on account of the activity in the Building Trade.

Since the beginning of 1921, 428 privies have been converted to the water carriage system. At the end of 1925 the houses with water closets numbered approximately 3,507, with waste water closets, 250, and houses with privy accommodation only, 1096.

Scavenging.

The dry refuse is collected from the movable receptacles once at least in every week, and in some cases twice a week. The refuse from the fixed receptacles is removed once in every four weeks. The removal of the refuse takes place in covered horse drawn vehicles, and is disposed of at the Local Authority's refuse tip at the east side of the District. There are no earth closets in the District.

The wet refuse from the privies is cleared by removing the contents of the privy middens into large galvanised iron receptacles with tight fitting covers. These are conveyed by lorries to the refuse tip where a quantity of this class of refuse is sold to farmers and market gardeners for use as manure at certain seasons of the year. There are no cesspools in the District.

The number of houses whose fixed receptacles have been substituted by movable ashbins is 428. The majority of the Ashbins now provided

are of the type of Dr. Quine's patent tipping ashbin. This type has been proved to facilitate scavenging, the yards being also kept in a more sanitary state.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The part of the Report includes the Report of the Sanitary Inspector under article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Altrincham
Urban District Council.*

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

Notices Served.

Informal	Statutory	Total
589	877	1466

Notices Complied With.

Informal	Statutory	Total
500	524	1024

Notices Outstanding.

Informal	Statutory	Total
89	353	442

It should be pointed out that the number of notices outstanding at the end of the year included notices served for the conversion of privies into water closets, where work had not been commenced.

Smoke Abatement.

Thirteen smoke observations have been taken during the year, each observation of 30 minutes duration. The time limit allowed by the Council is 3 minutes continuous black smoke within a 30 minutes observation, but in no instance was this exceeded.

There have been no tests of atmosphere impurity.

Premises and Occupations which are Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

The total number of houses sub-let or let in Lodgings in the District must be a fair proportion of the total houses. This is due entirely to the shortage of housing accommodation. There are 8 large houses sub-let in lodgings. They have been regularly inspected. No legal proceedings were instituted, but several persons were warned.

Common Lodging Houses.

There were 7 Common Lodging Houses on the Register at the end of the year, all in the West Ward. Some of the houses are old, and not suitable for this class of business, but they have been registered many years and the Council are not able to close them. Some cases of breach of Bye-laws occurred and the keepers were warned by the Council.

In one case a conviction was obtained for keeping a Common Lodging House without being registered by the Council.

Workshops.

At the end of the year there were 155 workshops and workplaces on the Register. They received 157 inspections. Several defects were found in the workshops, the chief of which were want of cleanliness and limewashing. Ventilation also received attention. There was only one outworkers premises in the District.

Manure receptacles and Removal of Manure.

During the summer months inspections were made to the horse-keepers premises in the District, and the manure has been removed in accordance with the instructions of the Council.

Hackney Carriages and Omnibuses.

The inspection of Hackney Carriages has proceeded on the same lines as previously. The omnibuses are not now being examined, the Council require a certificate from each proprietor applying for a licence from a Motor Engineer, certifying the vehicles to be in a safe and satisfactory condition for public hire.

Canal Boats.

The canal within the District is the Bridgewater Canal, the length of which is 1 mile, 1 furlong, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ chains. The number of boats inspected was 43. The structural conditions of 42 of the cabins was found to be satisfactory, and one unsatisfactory, namely :—leaky condition defective state of cabin. There were 3 cabins found to be in a dirty condition, and the Captain of the boat in each case was instructed to thoroughly cleanse the cabins. The Cabins of the boats contained registered accommodation for 150 persons, and were found to be occupied by 65 males, 16 females, and 16 children under 14 years of age. No case of infectious disease occurred on any boat, and it was not necessary to detain any boat for disinfection.

Drainage Inspection.

The testing and examination of all existing drains is carried out by this department. 143 inspections or tests were carried out. The powers of the Council to deal with existing drainage of buildings are inadequate and should be strengthened. This could be accomplished to some extent by adopting the Public Health Act, 1925, and I am to express the hope that the Council will take immediate steps to put this Act into operation in the Urban District of Altrincham.

Shops Early Closing Acts.

My appointment as Inspector under the Shops Acts was continued during the year. No legal proceedings were taken by the Council for selling after regulated hours, but several shopkeepers were warned. The Shops Early Closing Acts were on several occasions considered by the Council. It was decided to ask for the administration of the Acts to be placed in the hands of the Police Authorities, a policy which I advocated in my Annual Report of 1922.

Market.

Regular attention has been given to the Market, only 4 complaints were received. Complaints relating to short weight were referred to the Weights and Measures Inspector of the County Council, Chester.

The foodstuffs condemned as unfit were as follows :—

- 50 pairs of Kippers.
- 10 Herrings.
- 6 Haddocks.
- 4 Sives of Sprouts.
- 32 lbs. Plums
- 6 lbs. Raspberries.
- 9 Bananas.
- 23 Rabbits.

Housing.

The Council have built 74 Class A type of house and 34 Class B type in connection with their housing schemes. There have also been built 158 houses in the District by private enterprise.

The inspection of houses under the Housing of District Regulations has proceeded on the same lines as previously. There has been 146 houses inspected, as compared with 124 the year previously. 3 houses were condemned as being totally unfit for habitation. The property is owned by the Council, and was purchased some years ago for an improvement scheme, but on account of the housing conditions prevailing, the Council have been unable to proceed with the scheme. The House Letting Sub-Committee have been requested to provide alternative accommodation for the tenants on their housing site, so that the houses which are unfit for habitation can be closed.

In 1919 the Council were requested by the Ministry of Health to forward a survey of their Housing needs. At that time 20 houses were considered by the Council to be unfit for habitation. These houses are still occupied, because alternative accommodation has not been found for the occupiers.

The House Letting Sub-Committee have held several meetings to select tenants for the new houses. I have investigated the conditions under which several of the applicants are living. A number of the older applicants have now left the District or cannot be traced, so that the number of live applications on the Council's register must be less than the numbers which have been quoted.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The samples of milk submitted to the County Analyst for chemical analysis were reported upon by him not to be adulterated or to contain any preservatives.

A sample of mixed milk was procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Manchester who reported that Tubercular Bacilli was not found.

One Supplementary License was granted to sell milk as "Pasturised" within the area and a Supplementary License to sell milk as 'Grade A.'

There was one revocation of registration of a retailer, and one refusal of an applicant for registration. In both cases the premises were not considered satisfactory by the Council.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The above Regulations came into operation on the first of April, 1925. The Regulations contain provisions for the protection of meat against contamination by dirt, etc. The provisions were no doubt framed with a view to preventing objectionable practices in the handling, storage, and transport of meat.

No person shall slaughter an animal for sale for human consumption unless he has 3 hours previously given notice of intention to slaughter to the Local Authority. In this connection 686 pigs have been inspected, and 378 lbs. of pork condemned.

The transport and handling of meat in the District still leaves a good deal to be desired.

So far as Market Stalls are concerned, I am of opinion that no meat should be exposed for sale in an open space, but should be under cover.

Public Slaughterhouses.

The Council are the owners of the Slaughterhouses in Moss Lane. Accommodation and facilities are provided for the slaughtering and dressing of cattle, sheep and pigs.

The premises are frequently inspected, and during the survey period there has been condemned :—

Beef	3 tons	19 cwt.	Tuberculosis.
Mutton		6 cwt.	Decomposition.
Pork		10 cwt.	Tuberculosis

There are no private slaughterhouses in the District.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

The Council decided that their Sanitary Inspector should also act as Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. Samples of milk in the course of delivery were purchased under the Act, and the County Analyst certified each sample to be free from preservatives, and not to be adulterated.

WORK OF SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Complaints to Sanitary Inspector through Members								
of the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Complaints to the Sanitary Inspector through Committees								
of the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Complaints to Sanitary Inspector through Officers								
of the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Complaints to Sanitary Inspector by the public						...	...	158

Inspections.

Dwelling Houses (General Inspections, etc.)	...	...	...	600
Investigations and enquiries—applicants for Council Houses	...	...	...	193
Factories	...	...	...	51
Workshops	...	...	...	91
Workplaces	...	...	...	66
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	207
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	17
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	25
Canal Boats	...	...	...	43
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	139
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	19
Cowsheds	...	...	...	4
Watercourses	...	...	...	46
Ash Receptacles	...	...	...	588
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	...	466
Stables, Manure Pits, etc.	...	...	...	59
Shops Acts	...	...	...	283
Drains	...	...	...	69
Food Stores or Preparation	...	...	...	243
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	128
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	169
Omnibuses	...	...	...	112
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	55
Market Inspections	...	...	...	151
Nuisances Generally and Re-Inspections	...	...	...	469
Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	11
Pig Styes	...	...	...	37
Theatres, Music Halls, etc.	...	...	...	36
Privies Inspected	...	...	...	576
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	5
Smoke Observations...	...	...	...	24
Samples Collected for Analysis	...	...	...	2
Ashpits Reported for Emptying	...	...	...	36
Receptacles Reported for Emptying	...	...	...	52
Interviews	...	...	...	626
Committees or Council Meetings Attended	...	...	...	51

Scavenging.

The removal of house refuse has proceeded much on the same lines as in previous years. The Council have decided to apply for a provisional Order to secure additional land for a Refuse Tip.

The work done is as follows :—

Ashpits.

Number of Houses relieved	...	...	14,556
„ Privies emptied	...	...	10,243
„ Wet Ashpits emptied	...	...	5,793
„ Dry Ashpits emptied	...	...	2,554
„ Pails emptied	...	...	1,597
„ Loads removed	...	...	2,975

Ashbins.

Number of Houses relieved	...	...	148,170
„ Ashbins emptied	...	...	126,169
„ Tipping Ashbins emptied	...	...	23,686
„ Loads removed	...	...	2,456

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) JAMES E. CRICKMORE,
Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

(I) General Housing conditions in the area :—

(1) General housing conditions :—

The shortage of houses in the District is very acute, particularly for the lower paid workers. Much overcrowding exists. The erection of houses during recent years has not kept pace with the increase in population.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses, and

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage :—

(a) The Council have on their register the names of over 1,000 applicants for houses. Some of these have now left the district, and the extent of the shortage may be somewhere about 500 houses.

(b) The Council are at present erecting 74 Class A type of houses by contract, and they have decided to erect another 100 Class A type and several Class B type.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review, or anticipated in the future :—

The population is increasing on account of the growth of the industrial area of the town.

(II) Overcrowding :—

(1) Extent :—

The extent of overcrowding is difficult to ascertain, but large numbers of young married couples are living in rooms.

(2) Causes :—

The causes of overcrowding is undoubtedly the shortage of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding :—

The Council are tackling this question by building more houses, which is the only effectual way of alleviating overcrowding in a District.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken.

Wherever possible, overcrowding has been minimised by housing one of the families in a new Council house.

(III) Fitness of houses :—

- (1) (a) General Standard of housing in the area, and
- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses :
- (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants :—

The defects in some cases are due to the rough and illusage of the property by tenants and their families, and in other cases lack of proper supervision and management by owners. In most cases, however, defects are due to ordinary wear and tear.

- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
 - (a) the Public Health Acts :—

Outside defects are usually dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

- (b) the Housing Acts :—

Inside defects are usually dealt with under the Housing Acts.

- (3) Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.

There are over 1,000 privies remaining in the District, but the Council are tackling the conversion of these closets to the water carriage system in earnest.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

It is most important that the following tables should be clearly and accurately filled up, and it will be advisable to complete that portion of the Report before the more general observations and conclusions relating to housing are set out.

Number of new houses erected during the year, 86.

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)).
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—
 - (i) By the Local Authority, 14.
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons, 72.

1. Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection :—

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 601.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.
- 156

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head), found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation 126

2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices None.

The Council discontinued the practice of serving informal notices for repairs discovered under the Housing Acts some years ago.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... None

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 126

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 44

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... None

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close None

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 751

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 580

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... None

C—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made None

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit None

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders None

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR 1925, FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ALTRINCHAM.**
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories	51	3	
Workshops	91	54	
Workplaces	66	20	
Total	208	77	

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Pros- ecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1		
Want of ventilation ...	3	3		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors	1	1		
Other nuisances	72	52		
Total	77	57		

Infectious Diseases Generally.

Since 1920 the general incidence of Infectious Disease has fallen. The figures for the various years of the survey period are as follows :— 1921, there were 112 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 33 cases of Diphtheria: 1922, 106 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 24 cases of Diphtheria : 1923, 37 cases of Scarlet Fever and 14 cases of Diphtheria : 1924, 43 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 23 cases of Diphtheria : 1925, 56 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 12 cases of Diphtheria.

In the first 2 years of the period, a great wave of Scarlet Fever passed over the country generally, accompanied by an increased incidence of Diphtheria. In 1924 the Urban District of Altrincham experienced to some extent, an epidemic of Diphtheria, due to an infected milk supply. Also in 1924 there were 5 cases notified of Encephalitis Lethargica, 4 of whom died.

A supply of concentrated anti-toxin is kept at the Town Hall for the prompt administration by the medical practitioners in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

It has been noticed that each year there are a few cases of "return" Scarlet Fever.

Arrangements exist between the Local Authority and the University of Manchester whereby specimens are bacteriologically examined. The facilities thus afforded are well taken advantage of. In 1925, 148 throat swabs were sent for bacteriological report. 31 of these proved positive. 5 samples of blood and 3 of faeces were also bacteriologically examined, making a total of specimens examined 156.

No use has yet been made in the District of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been done by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There have been the usual seasonal outbreaks of Measles, Whooping Cough and Chicken pox. Many of these cases being notified from the various schools.

One death was attributed to Influenza. The mortality rate per 1,000 being .04.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	56	56	2
Diphtheria	12	10	2
Enteric Fever	2	2	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	1
Erysipelas	9	2	—

The case rate per 1,000 living is as follows :—that for England and Wales being also given.

	Altrincham.	England and Wales.
Smallpox	—	0·14
Scarlet Fever	2·66	2·36
Diphtheria	0·57	1·23
Enteric Fever	0·09	0·07
Puerperal Fever	0·04	0·06
Erysipelas	0·43	0·39

Age incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	15 yrs.	20 yrs.	35 yrs.	45 yrs.	65 yrs. & over
Scarlet F. ...	0	1	1	2	6	22	13	7	3	1	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	1	1	2	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	0

Seasonal incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scarlet Fever ...	6	4	8	3	3	5	2	1	2	3	8	11
Diphtheria ...	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
20—25	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
55—65	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	13	9	6	13	—	—	—	—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case of this disease was notified and was treated at the out-patient department of the Altrincham General Hospital, the vision being unimpaired.

The information relative to Maternity and Child Welfare has been incorporated in the Report.

In concluding my Survey Report I desire to express my deep indebtedness to the Sanitary Inspector, to the Health Visitor, and to the other Officials who have helped me so much in its preparation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. REID DUNCAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

